

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of providing a user interface for controlling radio equipment, the method being implemented in a programmed computer comprising a processor, at least one data storage system, a wheel mouse input device defined by a wheel and at least one display device, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a first and a second digit field, and a mouse pointer;

displaying said graphical user interface on one said display device;

accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over one said digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed;

converting said accepted input into a frequency command to said controlled radio equipment.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over one said digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed, said other digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein:

said generating step comprises generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a first, a second, and a third digit field, and a mouse pointer; and

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said second digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said second digit field, said first digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said second digit field, said third digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said second digit field.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

said generating step comprises generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a hundreds, a tens, and a units digit field, and a mouse pointer; and

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said tens digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said tens digit field, said hundreds digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field, said units digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said converting step comprises converting said accepted hundreds, tens and units digits into a frequency command to said controlled radio equipment.

6. A method of providing a user interface for tuning electronic equipment, the method being implemented in a programmed computer comprising a processor, at least one data

storage system, a wheel mouse input device defined by a wheel and at least one display device, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a first and a second digit field, and a mouse pointer;

displaying said graphical user interface on one said display device;

accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over one said digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed;

converting said accepted input into a tuning command to said controlled electronic equipment.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over one said digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed, said other digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said digit field over which said mouse pointer is placed.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein:

said generating step comprises generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a first, a second, and a third digit field, and a mouse pointer; and

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said second digit field

and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said second digit field, said first digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said second digit field, said third digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said second digit field.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein:

said generating step comprises generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a thousands, a hundreds, a tens, and a units digit field, and a mouse pointer; and

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said tens digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said tens digit field, said hundreds digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field, said units digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein:

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said hundreds digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said hundreds digit field, said thousands digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said hundreds digit field, said units digit field displayed digit and said tens digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said hundreds digit field.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said converting step comprises converting said accepted hundreds, tens and units digits into a frequency command to said controlled radio equipment.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein:

said generating step comprises generating, by means of the programmed computer, a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising at least one frequency field defined by at least a thousands, a hundreds, a tens, a units, and a tenths digit field, and a mouse pointer; and

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said tens digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said tens digit field, said hundreds digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field, said units and said tenths digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said tens digit field.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein:

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said units digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said units digit field, said tens digit field displayed digit changing responsive to said digit displayed in said units digit field, said tenths digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said units digit field.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein:

said accepting step comprises accepting input from a user, said user manipulating said wheel mouse input device to place said mouse pointer over said hundreds digit field and manipulating said wheel without clicking said mouse to select a desired digit displayed in said hundreds digit field, said tenths digit field displayed digit, said units digit field displayed digit and said tenths digit field displayed digit not changing responsive to said digit displayed in said hundreds digit field.